

*Who is the Impostor
discover'd ;*

OR, THE
VINDICATION
OF
John Curson,
From the *Malicious Aspersions*
in the *Daily Post* of the
3d Instant.

Good Name in Man and Woman, dear my Lord,
Is the immediate Jewel of their Souls:
Who steals my Purse, steals Trash; it's something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been Slave to Thousands:
But he that filches from me my good Name,
Robs me of That which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.

Moar of Venice.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. CURSON the Author; and Sold
at the *German Coffee-House* in *St. James's-street*,
and by the Booksellers of *London* and *West-*
minster. 1729. [Price 6d.]

INDICATION

PRINTED

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LOWDOWN.

*Who is the Impostor
discover'd.*



Having been Attacked by an abusive, a virulent *Advertisement*, and my Reputation most injuriously struck at ; it's become an indispensable Obligation upon me, to make the necessary Defence so villainous an Attempt demands. Was I not able to vindicate my Character from the heavy Charge a *Base Detractor* would load it with, as fully as the Method he Asperges me in will admit of, I ought to be detested by Mankind, and never more hope for that Favour, for that good Opinion I always endeavoured to obtain, and have hitherto been so happy as to enjoy, not only from Men of Integrity and Worth in the ordinary Affairs of Life, but from Gentlemen of the Highest Distinction and Honour.

A *Defamer* is certainly one of the most pernicious among Men ; his Pen strikes deeper than a Poinard ; worse than an

B

Assassin ;

Affassin ; he too often destroys that, which, to an Honest Mind, is a thousand times more valuable than Life ; and at once takes away *a Good Name*, the sole Reward, perhaps, of a long, a prudent, a painful Conduct.

This may be the Consequence, when injured Innocence has not the Means of a Justification in its Power ; then Villainy is triumphant, and the unhappy Sufferer sinks under undeserved Infamy. And in whose Power indeed can there be Reparation equal to the Injury, when the malicious Aspersions are most industriously and extensively spread ? But to do my utmost to rescue my Character from the detestable Imputations thrown upon it, I think my self obliged to transcribe my Accusation, before I proceed to my Defence. In the *Daily Post* of the 3d Instant is the remarkable Insertion following.

Whereas John Carson an Irish-man, (tho' he stiled himself Curson of Derbyshire, which proved false) was hired for a Year's Service as an Upper Servant to the Lord Willoughby de Broke, but prov'd dishonest to what was left in his Charge, scandalous and defaming in his Reports, and a Person of such a vile Behaviour as not fit to come into any Gentleman's Family ; he went away with my Lord's Clothes, tho' he lived with him but two

two Months : He is a middle-siz'd Man, inclinable to stoop his Head. This is to caution every Body how they have any thing to do with this Person, for he is an Impostor and Cheat.

A dreadful Charge indeed ! and most horrid the Discription ! tho' all positive Assertions, and not the least shadow of Proof produced to support the minutest Circumstance of one material Point. A Noble Lord's Name, indeed, seems prostituted to give weight to the Whole, and gain upon the general Belief ; but perhaps this may appear to be an addition to the Iniquity of the Injurious Advertiser.

'Tis no little Surprize to me, what Inducements could engage the *Printer of the Daily Post* to venture thus upon the grossest Abuse, and attempt the Ruin of a Family, (*for any thing he knew to the contrary*) of a most innocent Man ; however, of a Man who never offer'd him any Injury in his Life, without making an Enquiry equal at least to the probable Consequences which might attend the Publication, if False.

But at present to pass that Point : Having by an Advertisement the Day before enter'd my Protest against this *Traducer* ; on the 5th Instant I apprized the Pub-

lick, by a second Advertisement in the *Daily Journal*, what they were further to expect from me, as follows.

That Mankind may judge in how cruel, how unjust, how detestable a Manner Mr. JOHN CURSON has been treated, by an Advertisement in the Daily Post of the 3d Instant; next Week His Case will be Published at large; in which, all the Transactions between the L. Willoughby de Broke and Mr. Curson will be set forth, as far as is absolutely necessary to his Vindication from that false, malicious, scandalous Advertisement; and if thereby any disagreeable Truths are disclosed, they should be considered as extorted by the injurious Advertiser. The Vindication of his Character when aspersed, is the indispensable Duty of an honest Man; he owes it himself; he owes it all concerned with, or related to him; and he that will tamely submit undeservedly to be call'd Villain, ought to be treated as such by all the World. To add no more at present; If it does not appear incontestably that the Advertiser has used Mr. Curson in the vilest, basest, most dishonest, dishonourable Manner; he desires to be given up by all the World, and ever after thought the Cheat, the Wretch, the IMPOSTOR they would represent him.

Thus

Thus far is the Affair advanced : I would enter now upon satisfying those Expectations the last Advertisement may have rais'd ; by which, I'm oblig'd to have recourse to my earliest Acquaintance with the *L. Willoughby de Broke*.

The Critical Juncture on which it begun, was the Remarkable Day when the *Honourable Richard Verney, Esq;* thinking himself the *Lord Willoughby de Broke*, gave the most publick Proof of it in his Power, by walking in the Procession at the Coronation of Their Present MAJESTIES. Early on that Distinguish'd Day, 'twas my great good Fortune to be introduced to that worthy Gentleman ; and at the Expence of Time, and Money yet unpaid, I assisted him in all the Ceremonies usual upon such an Occasion ; I continued for about a Week after to attend him every Day, in order to the settling his Affairs, and the becoming his *Steward* in the Country, if we could have agreed upon Terms ; but the Imposition was too soon discover'd to settle that Important Point ; the late *Lord Willoughby de Broke* gave as incontestable Evidence of his being Alive, as Eating, Drinking, Sleeping, Talking, &c. could furnish ; and these he thought proper to continue to give for above fourteen Months after.

Thus

Thus ended the Visionary Prospect: Being no *Lord*, nor there being no *Land*, there was no Occasion for a *Steward*; and if I would Settle in *England*, I found I must look out for better Business.

In a Week's time all Correspondence broke off; and how little Reason I should have had to have been Concern'd, had it never been Renew'd, I leave the Impartial Reader to Determine.

Being Disengaged here, I returned to Baron *Sparre*, and with his Excellency left *England* for *Soissons*; where, in the Place of his Gentleman, I had the good Fortune, *however I may be so much alter'd since*, to behave to the Satisfaction of his Excellency, and with Reputation to myself; the best Proof of which I can produce, and that I was not *then* either *Impostor* or *Cheat*, is the following *Testification*, all in Baron *Sparre's* own Hand Writing; and who, notwithstanding how others may have since treated me, thought himself in Honour obliged to be concerned for my Reputation and Establishment in the World. This Certificate of the *Baron's* is now with the Master of the *German Coffee-House* in *St. James's Street*, where it may be view'd on Demand, and is as follows.

Whereas

Whereas the Bearer, John Curson, hath Served me about eight Years, most part as an Upper Servant, and now is going for England; This is to Certify that the said Curson hath, during all that Time, behaved himself in my Family with all Diligence and Honesty, as becoming a Faithful Servant. Witness my Hand,

Soissons, 20th December, 1728.

C. Sparre.

But the Baron, a Gentleman of too much Goodness and Honour to put off a Person, who had been so acceptable to him, with Words only, and empty Praise, went further on the behalf of one he thought his Faithful Servant, and recommended him in the strongest Terms to their Excellencies *Col. Stanhope*, and *Horatio Walpole Esq;* while at *Paris*, for some Provision to be made for him by the Government in *England*; which their Excellencies promis'd to serve him in, to the utmost of their Power. And accordingly I came to *London* at *Christmas* last in their Excellencies Retinue.

Being at *London*, and in daily Expectation of finding the good Effects of my Friends kind Interposition; yet knowing what Delays, of Necessity, attend the most affectionate

affectionate Applications, I was unwilling to be unemploy'd, and live at an Expence, which if continued, my Family might be unequal to : For which Reason, and I hope no dishonest one, I offer'd my Service to the *L. Willoughby de Broke*, who agreed to take me for a Steward or Upper Servant, at Fifty Pounds a Year.

But I being very sensible what Disadvantages *L. W's* Affairs lay under, and that the Estate was greatly short of Seven Thousand Pounds a Year, (as had been given out) before I would Sign any Agreement, I said, " My Lord, I'll undertake your Lordship's Affairs, upon Condition I may manage in the most frugal Manner, and that your Lordship will take the Advice of *Col. Hunt*, and such other your Relations as are in your Lordship's Interest : For indeed, my Lord, said I, I would sooner quit your Lordship's Service, than be obliged to do any thing that might be prejudicial to your Lordship's Interest, or endanger a Reflection on my own Reputation and Conduct." To this Effect I spoke, and a great deal more to the like Purpose ; for the Truth of which, I appeal to the Honourable *Col. Hunt*, and *Mrs. Hamilton*, who were both at Dinner with his Lordship when this Discourse happened, and who have given me

me Leave to make use of their Names, upon this Account.

My L. promising to comply with all this, I entred upon the Service on the 7th of *January*; in which I continued, paying my daily Attendance to the 8th of *March* last, being two Months.

In this short Space, if at all, must have been perpetrated all that Scene of Wickedness I have been publickly Charg'd with. To open it then, in a plain and honest Manner, let Mankind judge whether I have deserved the Treatment I have met with.

I am an *Irishman*, and I hope an Honest Man; I always endeavour'd to be found the latter; I ever own'd and valu'd myself upon being the former; I never went by any other Name but that of *John Curson*; and I appeal to Colonel *Hunt*, whose Honour was never question'd yet, if I did not tell L. W. as plain as Words could express it, that I was an *Irishman*: No Man will be asham'd of his Country, who has not been a Shame to it. Are not *Irishmen* Universally esteem'd in all Parts of the World? Are there not Gen-
 C tlemen

tle men of *Ireland* of as fair Fortunes and Characters, Men of as much Honour, Parts, and Learning, who are above mean Actions, and as incapable of ill ones, as any Men upon Earth?

But to recover the Digression: The base *Detractor*, who has Vilify'd me in Print, to deter me from a just *Vindication*; has, I hear, privately threatned me with the fatal Consequences my *Defence* might bring upon my Family: But I hope I shall let him see I dread nothing so much as loss of Reputation; or have any fear, but to be thought *Vile* or *Base*. I have been in most Countries in *Europe*, have transacted Business in them all of great Consequence; been Entrusted to the Amount of several Thousand Pounds at a Time; have been Esteem'd where-ever I was Employ'd; and have had distinguishing Regards shewn me, and Honours done my Family, by their Excellencies Baron *Sparre* and General *Diemer*, the Lady *Diemer*, the Countess of *Gyllenborg*, and several other Persons of Quality and Fortune; whose future Esteem or Concern for me, I should be most unworthy of, and ought never to expect, should I sit tamely down under a Load of Infamy
thus

thus thrown upon me, and by my Silence
own myself Guilty.

To examine the Defamation then more particularly. Is it not a little unaccountable, that I should act Faithfully for many Years, when Intrusted with a large Wealth in Money, Plate, and Jewels; and of a sudden prove Dishonest (as the *Advertiser* says) to what was in my *Charge* when Hired to the L. W.? Why would not the *injurious Man* mention Particulars here? NO; Base, and Unjust, he knew he could not do it! Prove *Dishonest to my Charge*! good God! that a Man should be so used! What had I in Charge? I am sorry I must make Matters Publick, which were much better Conceal'd: but there's no help for it; 'tis extorted from me; I must speak the Truth, or be Undone. I never was Entrusted with a Shilling of my L's Money, or Moneys worth, in my Life. No Family could be in a more distressful Case than this, when I came to it: I found it in want of Money, Cloaths, and Credit; without any Household Goods; with but one Spoon, and that a Pewter one; destitute of Linen, and of common Necessaries, to a degree not decent to disclose. What could I have here to be Dishonest in? In

this sad Case I found L. W. ; a Case, that has often drawn Tears from my L. ; and was so sad, it could hardly be worse.

To remedy all this, was my sincere Desire, and my utmost Endeavour : And how am I used for it by the *Cruel Advertiser* ! I may appeal to the Lord *Willoughby* for ev'n the Truth of all I have said, and am going to say. My Interest and my Money were immediately at my L's Service : I advanced all the Ready Cash I could spare, of which only Five Pounds Seventeen Shillings is as yet repay'd me. I procured Credit with several Tradesmen, none of whose Bills are yet pay'd, and who gave Credit at my Request only : I went the cheapest way to work that was possible for me to do, and engaged all I dealt with to take the lowest Prices for their Goods ; and I appeal here to every Man of them, if I could have driven harder Bargains, had I been making them for my self, or if ever I took a Shilling of any one of them in my Life.

To go farther : I had my L's Interest so much at heart, that having done a Friend of my own a particular piece of Service, for which he offer'd me a very handsome Gratuity in Gold, I absolutely refus'd touching
so

so much as one Guinea, for this reason only, because I knew that Gentleman might be very serviceable to my L. ; and I afterwards got him to be so, without having yet charg'd my L. a Shilling upon that Account. For the Truth of this, I appeal to the Great GOD ; and I appeal to the Gentleman himself, who is a Man of Honour and Fortune, and is ready to give the most publick Testimony of it, if required.

These Things together, are an Assurance to me, that the Name of a Noble Lord has been mis-used ; and that he would be so far from Countenancing the Injuries offer'd me, that he would Detest such Treatment of a Man who not only always Behav'd to him with all possible Respect, but did the utmost in his Power to Deserve his Lordship's Favour.

How Wicked is it for my *Conceal'd Detractor*, to Charge me with being *Defaming* and *Scandalous* in my Reports, and of such a vile Behaviour as not fit to come into any Gentleman's Family ; without instancing in one Particular, or producing the least Proof, to support any thing he says ! And indeed, to do these, I here Defy him : Thank God, they are not in his Power :
And

And was he an Honest Man, he had long e're this acknowledg'd it in the most publick Manner, and have endeavour'd to have heal'd the Wound he has given my Reputation. But he that could be guilty of so base an Action, seems incapable of any Remorse, or any desire of making Reparation.

All Men of Honour and Honesty must abhor such Proceedings ; there's That within them, which always pleads on the Behalf of Injured Innocence : But many of them will think me the *Knave*, the *Vile Person* I have been describ'd, because my *Defence* may never reach their Hands. Thus have I been Stabb'd in the Dark, and my Character irreparably Injured. And besides this forest Wound, I have receiv'd another, a Blow in my *Circumstances* ; which was solely and unavoidably occasion'd by the malicious *Advertisement* ; it not being possible for me to make my Defence Publick quick enough to prevent it. For want of this, his Excellency Baron *Sparre*, who I was to have gone with to *Soissons*, has left me behind, at my own Expence, determining to have no farther Concern with me, unless I could Vindicate my self from the Charge publickly brought against me. Thus might a Family be Undone, by the undeserv'd Villainy

Villainy of a malicious Man ; and thus have I already receiv'd a Damage in my private Affairs, which an Hundred Pounds cannot repair ; but this, I doubt not to find a Remedy for : How happy would it be, was one so easily to be procured for the greater Detriment I have sustained !

The only Colour for an Accusation, is, *That I went away with my L's Cloaths.* But that this is of a-piece with all the rest, will be sufficiently evident, by a true Relation of the Fact. And here allow me, it coming properly in, to give the Publick all the Reasons I could ever possibly guess or come at, for my Dismission from my L's Service. I had, from the first, made it my Study to bring about a Reconciliation between my L. and the Honourable *John Verney Esq;* and to prevail with my L. to grant some Requests made him by *Col. Hunt*, which I conceiv'd very much for my L's Interest to grant : But as they *are not absolutely necessary to my Defence to mention*, I omit them at present. How agreeable soever these Proposals might be to my L., whom I once found very inclinable to hearken to them, they proved Detrimental to my Interest, and rais'd a Resentment in the Family, that was continu'd

tinu'd 'till my L. was prevail'd upon to Dismiss me ; which was done in the handsome manner following : “ Mr. Curson, “ (says my L.) I am sorry for it ; but “ having been made Uneasy upon your “ Account, I'm oblig'd to Part with you : “ Go Home, and To-morrow I'll send for “ you and pay you the Money you have “ Laid out for me, and Lent me, with a “ great many Thanks.” Upon this, I said what I thought proper, and which is needless here to repeat ; took my Leave, and went Home. But that Morrow has never yet come ; and when it will, God only knows.

These are all the Reasons I am able to imagine for my Dismission ; except some which I'll bury in Oblivion 'till farther forced to make the Disclosure ; unless I might add for one, that Vindicating a Person of Distinction, I have the utmost Veneration for, might give a Disgust to those who in Conversation were constantly treating him with Scurrility, and in whose Power it was to do me an Injury with my L.

Hearing nothing from my L., as I expected, I waited on him the second Day after I left the Service ; when a Footman deliver'd

deliver'd me a Message, to this Effect; That in a Day or two my L. would send for me, and pay me what he ow'd me. But from that Moment to this, I have never seen either my L., or the Money.

All this Time I heard not one Word of the Cloaths; they were Mourning my L. gave me, for the Lord *Willoughby*, Deceas'd; I had them on when I went away, I had them on when I came to wait on my L. and I am fully perswaded my L. had so much Affection for me when we parted, that had they been Cloaths of ten times greater Value, my L. would have been well pleas'd that I had accepted of them.

Some few Days after this, my Wife receiv'd a Letter, wrote, as it's pretended, by my L's Order, to desire I would forbear wearing those Cloaths; but however, that I would keep them by me 'till the Week after the Date of that Letter; when the Writer assured my Wife, that my L. would send for me, and Pay me what was Due. This Direction I comply'd with; I never wore them since, tho' whether I had a right to have done so, if I had thought fit, may hereafter be disputed. And this,

D

it

it seems, is call'd, *going away with my L's Cloaths*; and for this I am to be branded with the opprobrious Names of *Impostor* and *Cheat*. But where did I go? Did I not go Home? and did I not do the same every Night? Did I ever lie a Night under my L's Roof while in the Service? Thank God, I do not want the Cloaths; and should despise, though a free Gift, to detain them against the alter'd Inclination of the Giver.

Thus have I given a plain Account of Matter of Fact only; and have with Care declin'd Reflections, and all that might look like Retaliation: Tho' how far these, consistent with Justice and Honour, are in my Power, with relation to those who have been so industrious to injure me with my L., is no Secret to a great part of the Town; tho' the Discovery would be as great a Surprise to the other. But my View here, is, to Right my Character from the Falshoods and Aspersions of a *malicious Advertisement*; not seek Revenge: And I solemnly declare, as in the Presence of the Great GOD of Truth, that I have endeavour'd sacredly to adhere to Truth, in the minutest Circumstance, and that I have undoubted Authority to support every

every part of this Narrative, as fully as the Nature of it will possibly admit of. And I again Call upon, Challenge, nay, Defy my inveterate Enemy, *who ever he is*, that has thus publickly Arraign'd me, to Prove upon me any of the Crimes he has laid to my Charge, or Detect me of Deceit in this *Defence*.

How glad, may it be supposed, he would be of this, who has gone the Lengths he has already gone! And how undeniable an Evidence must it be of the *Advertiser's* great Wickedness, not to be able to do it! He says, I am *inclin'd to Stoop*; and, if possible, he would Press me Down. He has laid me indeed under such a Load, that I have not yet been able to hold up my Head, or shew my Face to Gentlemen I have my Expectations from. NO: I am not so harden'd in Villany yet, to have dar'd to go near them, while I lay under such direful Imputations, Unanswer'd: The Consequences of which, have already been highly Detrimental to my Settlement in Life; and how much they may be more so, Time alone can Determine.

But this seems to have been of no weight with the *unjust Calumniator*. The

Bread, the Happiness of a Family, could not be suppos'd to move the Man, who rather than not vent the Malice of his Heart, would, at the most notorious Expence of Truth, and in breach of common Justice and Honesty, sacrifice all Remains of his own Reputation, that he might blast and ruin his Good Name that was the Object of his Resentment: And why I am such, is yet a Secret not fully disclos'd; and which, if laid open, would cause the Abhorrence of every upright Man that heard it.

May I be permitted to enter my Protest against the Evidence of a Man, whose wicked Life is a Scandal to his Profession; this Man, I have too much Reason to fear, would say any thing, to curry Favour; I therefore think I may justly object to him; and that the World may judge whether those are sufficient Reasons, or no, for my thinking so, they may shortly have a more full Account of his *Virtuous Conduct*, with a Specimen of his Elegant Epistolatory Performances, never yet made Publick, for the Entertainment of the Curious. This Creature formerly bred Confusion in a Family of Distinction, and has ever since basely Traduced it; so that among those
who

who know him, 'twould be no wonder to find him fomenting Uneasiness, and creating Distractions, when he may imagine it for his Interest to do so.

Had I been chargeable with an unguarded Expression, where the World says so much to their Disadvantage, and may be told so much more than is generally known; Cou'd I, for this, have deserv'd the Infamy and utter Ruin the *Advertiser* seems so inveterately bent upon pursuing me to? But I decline all farther Discoveries at present.

To Conclude. — As the Outrage offer'd me is most Ungenerous and Wicked, so it cannot fail to meet with the utmost Abhorrence of all Honest People and Men of Honour: And as I depend upon it, that no Assertions, however positive, however repeated, without proper Proof, shall ever prejudice me with these, whose good Opinion will be always priz'd by every upright Mind; so I doubt not of obtaining, from the Justice of my Country, as full Reparation, as 'tis in the Power of the Law to give an Injured Man, who has
been

been Insulted and Defamed in the unpa-
ralled Manner I have suffer'd by : Which
shall be my next Endeavour.

April

1729.

John Curson.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

Page 5. line 24. after *Imposition*, pray read, upon
his Lordship.

